



2020 BUDGET KEEPS TAXES LOW, BOOSTS PUBLIC SAFETY

The Carmel City budget for 2020 has been adopted, calling for a slight tax decrease and additional funding for public safety. The Carmel City Council approved the Mayor's proposed \$112.5 million budget in October.

"The most important thing about our budget is that it's balanced. We will continue to keep our rainy day fund among the highest in Indiana and our city property tax rate among the lowest of some 118 cities in Indiana," said Mayor Jim Brainard.

The budget for the General Fund is more than \$112 million and includes adding 15 firefighters, three police officers and providing the first full year of services to the Home Place area, which has been annexed into the City limits. It also accommodates the leap-year calendar requiring 27 pay periods this year, instead of the usual 26.

In addition, the proposed budget for the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund (Streets and Engineering) is \$17 million. Along with the budget was a resolution calling for the city to cap the tax rate at

a maximum 0.7886 per \$100 assessed valuation. The city believes the final calculation by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) will result in a slightly lower rate, however, the budget proposal calls for the rate to be capped at the 2019 level in order to ensure the public the rate will not increase. A resident living in a \$200,000 gross-value homestead, subject to a mortgage deduction, will pay, at most, \$771 for the city tax portion for 2020.

At the end of 2019, the city will transfer more than \$2 million from savings to the Rainy Day Fund. Carmel has the fifth largest Rainy Day Fund of 119 cities in Indiana. The city is projecting that the Rainy Day Fund and General Fund will have balances that total more than \$18 million at the end of 2020 and when considering all city funds, will exceed \$40 million by the end of 2024.

Carmel has a reasonable amount of debt service to revenue. Principal and interest payments constitute less than 20 percent of City revenues.

MAYOR AND MOFFETT HONORED BY INTERNATIONAL GROUP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The International Economic Development Council, the largest nonprofit association for professional economic developers in the world, honored more than 100 economic development organizations and leaders for achieving excellence in the profession - including two notable names from Carmel.

Mayor Jim Brainard was awarded the Leadership Award for Public Service in recognition for his advocacy of economic development as an elected official.

Justin Moffett, CEO of Old Town Companies in Carmel was awarded the Citizen Leadership Award for his leadership as a local business owner influencing economic development.

The awards were presented at IEDC's Annual Conference Awards Dinner held in the Palladium. IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders.



CHRISTKINDLMARKT / ICE AT CENTER GREEN

Market open now through December 24th.
Ice rink open through March 1st.

**SEE PAGES 4-5
FOR MORE INFO**



MAYOR'S COLUMN



We have concluded our 2020 budget season and I appreciate the dedication Council gave toward the process. There are other ways outside of the typical budget discussions, that we can impact our local property taxes, which remain among the lowest in the State of Indiana.

As an example, we spend a great deal of time working with the State of Indiana and the Federal Government to show them Carmel is deserving of additional support. Just last month, the Indiana Department of Transportation announced that it was granting the City of Carmel an additional \$1 million in a Community Crossings Matching Grant Fund. We plan to use these funds to help repave Keystone Parkway, one of our busiest corridors, from 96th Street to 146th Street.

Of course, we have to match these funds, just as we did in previous years when we received \$1 million to build the roundabout at Range Line Road and Elm Street and extend Elm Street to 3rd Avenue SW. Likewise, we received a \$650,000 grant to build the City Center Drive and 3rd Avenue SW roundabout and improve 3rd Avenue SW.

These grants are instrumental in keeping our local property taxes low and allowing us to continue to maintain our excellent city streets.

Jim Brainard

Mayor Jim Brainard can be reached by calling 317-571-2401 or by email at jbrainard@carmel.in.gov

FLOOD INSURANCE POLICY HOLDERS SHOULD SAVE TEN PERCENT

In late October, we were notified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that the City's 291 property owners who are required to purchase flood insurance policies will be saving 10 percent off their annual bill. This is the result of the steps we have taken as a city to mitigate flooding issues in Carmel. According to FEMA, more than \$80 million in flood insurance is provided to these Carmel residents with property in flood zones. Collectively, this amounts to about \$250,000 in annual premiums. With a 10 percent discount, that will result in more than \$25,000 in savings for these property owners as a whole.

Why did we qualify for this 10 percent discount?

FEMA said the voluntary actions Carmel takes to manage our floodplains and the way we address our overall drainage issues *"exceeded the minimum standards ... (and) lead your community to be more disaster resistant ... enhancing public safety, property protection and protecting the natural functions of floodplains."*

Specifically, credit was given for the way we conduct and adopt flood studies, preserve about eight percent of Special Flood Hazard Areas as open space and enforce regulations that require freeboard for new and substantial improvement construction. FEMA also appreciated how Carmel uses digitized maps in the day-to-day management of the floodplain and how we enforce regulations for soil and erosion control, along with water quality.

We work hard to obtain these grants and financial incentives to stretch our tax revenues as much as possible, while keeping our tax rates low.

CARMEL CITY COUNCIL

Carmel City Council is comprised of seven members elected to four-year terms: two at-large and five elected from five districts. The City Council constitutes the legislative body of the city. It has power over the city budget, and passes city ordinances and resolutions. Current members are:



JEFF WORRELL
Council President
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Current rep for Home Place area
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LAURA CAMPBELL
Council V.P.
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Mail may be sent to City Council Members at:
One Civic Square, Carmel, IN 46032



CENTER GREEN TO BE NAMED 'CARTER GREEN'

Mayor Jim Brainard surprised City Councilman Ron Carter, who is completing his sixth and final term on Carmel City Council (1996–2019) and who has helped shape the city we love, by renaming Center Green in his honor.

Welcome to Carter Green.

Ron was the catalyst for the creation of the Carmel Farmers Market, which takes place on the Green from May through September, offering fresh local produce and healthy culinary options in a lively community environment. He is also an avid bike rider who was an early proponent of bicycling in Carmel, helping pave the way for the Monon Greenway and our vast trail and path system.

Ron was a founding member of the Monon Greenway Committee and the Hamilton County Alternative Transportation Task Force. In addition to his council service, he served on the Carmel Redevelopment Commission during the early years, creating world-class venues such as the Palladium at The Center for the Performing Arts. His dedication and support helped transform Carmel into the walkable vibrant city you see today.



City Councilor Ron Carter with his wife Barbara

His involvement in these and many other local initiatives lead to him being named the 2006 winner of the Most Valuable Volunteer Award by the Carmel Chamber of Commerce. He has lived in Carmel since 1987 with his wife Barbara, who has also been very active in the community. His early career was spent in marketing, marketing communications and sales. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Indiana University.



Holiday Shopping? Brookshire Golf Club Offering Seasonal Golf Packages

The City of Carmel's Brookshire Golf Course offers an exciting golf experience for beginners and seasoned golfers alike. The 18 Championship holes are accented by gently rolling terrain, and stately mature trees. Picturesque Cool Creek winds its way through a majority of the layout.

Built in 1970, and designed by Carmel's legendary architect William Diddel, Brookshire is a joy to play. The four sets of tees allow for each player to select their own level of golf challenge.

Season Passes for 2020 are now available. Both Men's and Ladies' Leagues call Brookshire Golf Course their home, offering regularly scheduled weekly golf events.

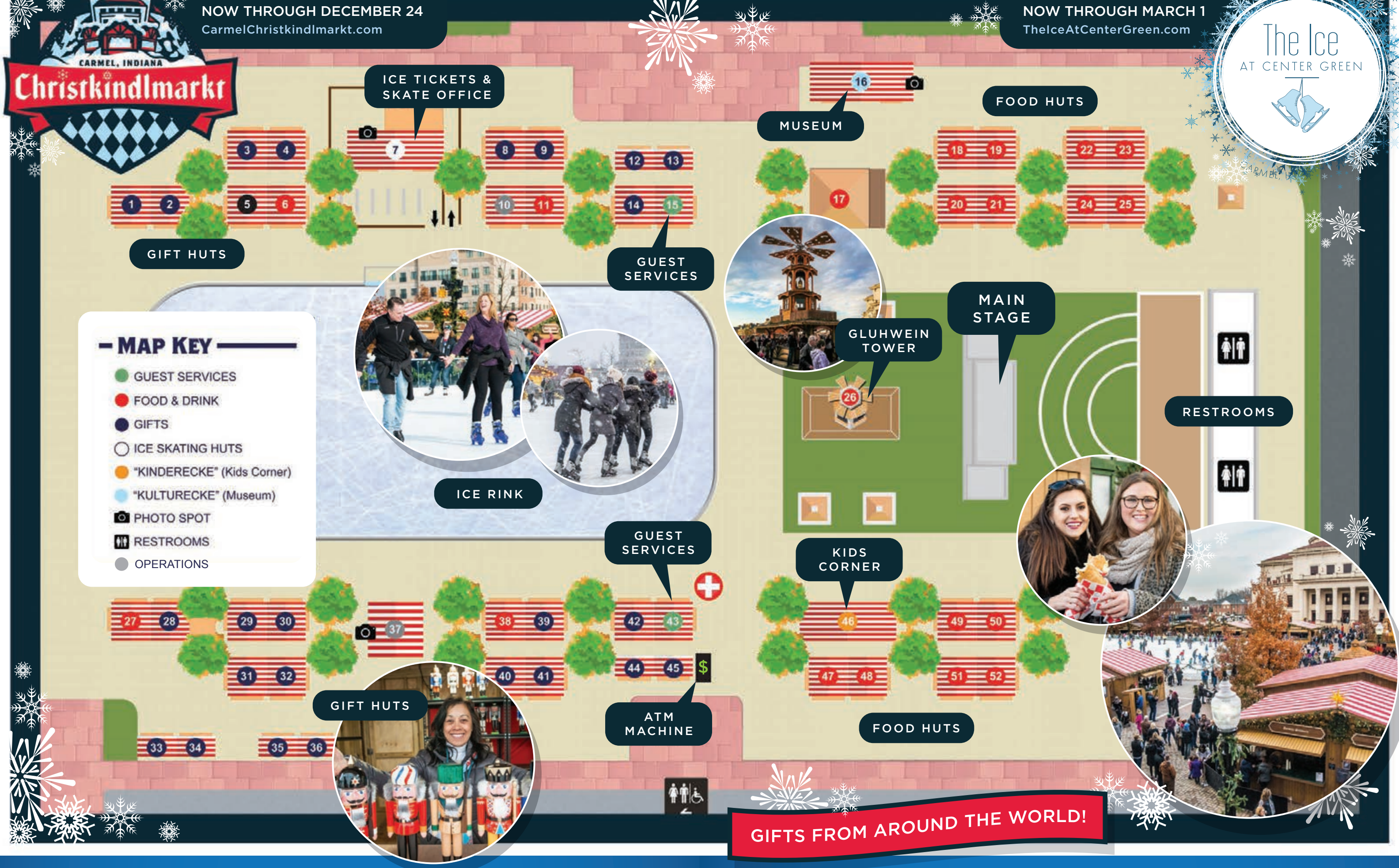
All Adult/Senior Season Passes Include:

Cart Included (Except on Executive Pass), Priority Tee Times two weeks ahead, Handicap (BlueGolf) System Records for each member, \$100 Club Credit per adult pass holder, 15% discount on most pro shop merchandise.

Brookshire Season Pass Options

- Single: \$1700
- Senior Single (55+): \$1550
- Couple: \$2350 – Sign up before March 1 and save \$125
- Senior Couple (55+): \$2200
- Junior (16-under): \$300
- *(Rates Above Include Cart Pass)*
- Executive (35-under) \$1000 – Executive Season Pass does not include cart. \$7 cart fee to ride





NEW POLICE OFFICERS
WELCOMED BY CPD

In October, Mayor Brainard, Chief Barlow and the Carmel City Council welcomed two of our newest police officers, Officer Ebony Moon and Officer Victor Garcia, in a ceremonial swearing-in. Officers Moon and Garcia joined the Carmel Police Department in August and are currently in field training.

Pictured: (Left to right) Joe O’Connell (Carmel Police Department Merit Board Vice President), Officer Ebony Moon, Chief Jim Barlow, Officer Victor Garcia, Alana Shane (Carmel Police Department Merit Board Secretary)



CARMEL FIRE BUFFS MUSEUM
TO GET UPGRADE, FACELIFT

The City of Carmel and Clay Township are moving forward on a project to build a new fire administration building and museum in the Carmel Arts & Design District, which means the Carmel Fire Buffs Museum – where historically significant artifacts are kept and displayed for visitors – will be getting a much-needed upgrade and facelift to serve future generations of visitors.

The Carmel Fire Department headquarters will actually be returning to the site of its original location, 210 Veterans Way, where the Fire Buffs Museum currently stands. Meanwhile, Station 41 at Civic Square will be remodeled to provide more room and updated amenities for firefighters.

City and Township officials, along with project designers and architects, sought the best way to honor the history of the

DOGS TEACHING KIDS NEW TRICKS WITH CFD

The Carmel Fire Department launched an exciting new program, joining forces with the Kasey Program, a program that teaches fire safety to kids utilizing dogs. The Kasey Program takes an entertaining approach to bringing life-saving skills to a wide range of audiences, including community events, nursing homes and students from preschool to Grade 6. Program founder and professional firefighter Jeff Owens sings and plays guitar while Kasey, a black Labrador, demonstrates fire safety tips. If you want to schedule an appearance by Jeff and Kasey, visit KaseyProgram.org or contact: JEFF OWENS, Public Education Coordinator, Koorsen Fire & Security, 317-489-3136, or email kaseyprogram@koorsen.com



Fire Buffs Museum while also building a new, world-class museum and CFD administrative offices.

The Fire Buffs Museum has worked hard to help preserve Carmel Fire Department history through memorabilia, documents and apparatus and the original intent was to build around the current Fire Buffs building. But after extensive research, discussion and examination of the building, it is not feasible to save the current building and maintain a safe environment for the museum.

The building was built in 1950 by Fire Department volunteers and posed a number of structural challenges that made it impossible to incorporate it into the new building project.

Carmel Fire Chief Dave Haboush said he is sad to see the old building go because it means so much to many retired and current firefighters and their families. But he vowed that construction crews will be closely documenting the exact dimensions and layout of each of the rooms (office, bunk room, kitchen and day room) in order to re-create the spaces as part of the new museum display.

The Buffs building will have a special contractor selected to deconstruct the building in order to salvage as much of the front (east wall) of the current Buffs building as possible. The lime stone and bricks will be reused as a part of the new building facade. The antenna sitting on the current Buffs building will be removed, stored and repositioned upon the new museum building.

NEW PUBLIC ART IN CARMEL

Public art enhances the lives of all who pass by. Art and sculpture inside our roundabouts are functional as well in that they serve to block the view of oncoming traffic, forcing motorists to look to the left before merging. But these and other beautiful works, also add to the aesthetic quality of the landscape in Carmel. Most recent additions to our public art include “*Grace, Love and Joy*” (Old Meridian and Pennsylvania), *Reckon* (Range Line and Elm) and along the Monon Greenway in Midtown, *Sail*.



Top:
“*Grace, Love and Joy*” by
Arlon Bayliss

Middle:
“*Reckon*” by
Brad Howe

Right:
“*Sail*” by
Owens +
Crawley



HOW IS CARMEL’S
WATER QUALITY?

Recently, a few people on social media were discussing Carmel’s water quality because a local resident used a home testing kit to measure the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in his water and noticed a level above the 500 suggested by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The reason that this is not significant is that the TDS level is a “secondary standard” not required of utilities by the EPA because there is a caveat with it; a recognition that a region’s soil makeup impacts TDS levels.

This topic deserves more explanation than this space allows, however, the simple answer to the question of Carmel’s water quality is this: Carmel’s water passes all EPA and state standards and is safe to drink.

For access to the most recent City of Carmel Water Quality Report, go to: carmel.in.gov/departments-services/utilities/carmel-water-quality

You will see that the report shows Carmel Water had a perfect score showing absolutely no violations.

The soil and underground limestone formation in Carmel and much of central Indiana is very rich in natural mineral content, which produces a type of “hard” water that is safe, but high in calcium, magnesium, sulfates and other naturally occurring minerals. The EPA does not consider such naturally occurring mineral content as harmful.

One thing that Carmel does, which most other cities do not, is take the raw hard water and treat it at our state-of-the-art facilities to make it softer before it reaches our customers.

Raw, untreated hard water can cause scale build-up, which can be damaging to pipes, leave spots on dishes, stain plumbing fixtures and clog shower heads. This is why decades ago, the City of Carmel made the decision to soften the water supply using the ion exchange process, which exchanges the calcium ions with sodium ions. This process does not produce soft water (as you might have with a home water softener), but it does produce water that has been made softer. One of the results of using salt to soften our water is that TDS levels are increased.

Obviously, the taste of the water is something subjective and is often based on the water we grew up drinking. But there is no question that Carmel’s water is high quality and safe to drink.

EXPERIENCE CARMEL!

NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 24

Carmel Christkindlmarkt at Center Green

DECEMBER 6 • Friday

5–9 p.m. - Holiday Trolley: Arts & Design District,
City Center and Center Green

DECEMBER 7 • Saturday

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Carmel Clay Historical
Society Holiday Home Tour

2–5 p.m. - Holiday in the Arts District

2–9 p.m. - Holiday Trolley: Arts & Design District,
City Center and Center Green

DECEMBER 13 • Friday

5–9 p.m. - Holiday Trolley: Arts & Design District,
City Center and Center Green

DECEMBER 14 • Saturday

2–9 p.m. - Holiday Trolley: Arts & Design District,
City Center and Center Green

4–6 p.m. - Holiday Porchfest: Arts & Design District

5–9 p.m. - Meet Me on Main: Arts & Design District

DECEMBER 20 • Friday

5–9 p.m. - Holiday Trolley: Arts & Design District,
City Center and Center Green

DECEMBER 21 • Saturday

2–9 p.m. - Holiday Trolley: Arts & Design District,
City Center and Center Green

DECEMBER 26 – MARCH 1 • Various Times

Skating at The Ice at Center Green



News from the City of Carmel
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96TH & KEYSTONE PROJECT ON TRACK

Construction crews are busy finishing up work on the 96th Street corridor project and plans call for substantial completion of all work before the end of the year. Work on the corridor – from White River to Keystone – is in its final phase. The Gray Road roundabout opened recently and the Delegates Row roundabout is expected to be done by mid-December. Traffic is being maintained one lane in each direction during this work.

The new grade-separated interchange at 96th and Keystone, with ramps controlled by roundabouts, is on schedule and expected to be complete before the end of this year.

If weather permits, all of the asphalt coating and lane markings will be completed. But if winter sets in too soon, some of that will be delayed until spring, but either way, traffic will be fully functional.

FOR MORE INFO Visit Carmel.IN.gov or call (317) 571-2401



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